ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for using light to indicate locations of flaws and defects on a composite structure generally includes electronically accessing positional data defining one or more defect locations on a composite structure. The positional data can be extracted from a part fabrication file in which resides numerical control (NC) data that can be used by a material placement machine to fabricate the composite structure. The method also includes automatically causing at least one light source to direct light at the composite structure to indicate the defect locations as defined by the positional data. Accordingly, the light allows the defect locations to be readily ascertained for later action, such as manual defect repair and/or FOD removal by an operator.